



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **PAKISTANI NATIONAL CONVICTED AND SENTENCED ON FEDERAL FALSE STATEMENTS CHARGE**

BOSTON—A Pakistani national was convicted and sentenced today in federal court on a charge of aiding and abetting false statements in connection with his attempt to obtain a visa to enter the United States.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan and Matthew J. Etre, acting special agent-in-charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New England, announced today that Azhar Ehsan, 32, of Pakistan, pleaded guilty today before U.S. District Judge Rya Zobel to a one-count indictment charging him with aiding and abetting false statements. The court sentenced Ehsan to time served immediately after accepting the guilty plea.

At today's plea hearing, the prosecutor told the court that, had the case proceeded to trial, the evidence would have proven that, Ehsan provided false information to an American company (which, unbeknownst to Ehsan, was an ICE undercover company) to be included in an invitation letter sent on June 18, 2001, by the undercover company to the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan in order to assist Ehsan in obtaining a visa to enter the United States.

Ehsan was arrested in connection with these charges on May 2, 2005 in Georgia and has been in federal custody since that time.

Under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Ehsan faced a likely prison sentence of up to six months. Because he had been in custody for 170 days, Judge Zobel sentenced him to a period of time served, followed by two years of supervised release. Ehsan was immediately taken into ICE custody, and faces deportation to his native Pakistan.

The case was investigated by ICE, and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Moffatt in Sullivan's Anti-Terrorism and National Security Section.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*